

October 9, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C St SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Secretary Azar:

As state agencies prepare their Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) programs for the winter, we respectfully request that the Department of Health and Human Services release the LIHEAP funds included in the fiscal year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act as quickly as possible.

LIHEAP is the main federal program that helps low-income households and seniors with their energy bills, providing critical assistance during the cold winter and hot summer months. This funding has been an indispensable lifeline during challenging economic times, helping to ensure that recipients do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and paying for other necessities like food or medicine. On average, low-income families and seniors spend a higher proportion of their income on energy, and for many states, October marks the start of the heating season, creating an additional constraint on these household budgets.

As the relevant state agencies begin to provide assistance for this winter, it is critical that they have the resources to assist low-income households and seniors as soon as possible. Therefore, we request that you quickly release LIHEAP funds in order to allow states and low-income households to prepare for the upcoming season.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical program, and thank you for your attention to our concerns and those of our constituents.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

John Hoeven
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Angus S. King Jr.
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

United States Senator